



FISHERIES COALITION FOR THE TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED: WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE PRIME CONSERVATION VALUES



Truckee River

The ***Truckee River Watershed*** is one of California's most pristine and ecologically diverse watersheds. Beginning in beautiful Lake Tahoe, the Truckee River travels roughly 120 miles through the Northern Sierra until it terminates at Pyramid Lake, a remnant of prehistoric Lake Lahontan. The watershed that surrounds the river, covering close to 3,000 sq. miles, provides unique habitats for nine native fish, including Lahontan cutthroat trout.

CalTrout, in collaboration with partner organizations—University of Nevada, Reno, Trout Unlimited, and University of California, Davis, recently completed development of the Meadow Restoration Fish Analysis Tool (MRFAT). The tool allows us to accurately quantify the value of past, current and future restoration projects for native trout. As a component of these evaluations, the team consulted with agency biologists, resource managers, and regional restoration practitioners active within the Tahoe/Truckee River Watershed. Together we identified and prioritized threats to Lahontan cutthroat trout, spotlighting recovery recommendations wherever an existing project was underway. The relationships and important body of knowledge built through this effort clearly demonstrated the need of bringing together a diverse group of stakeholders for a watershed-wide fisheries perspective.

BUILDING A STRONG FISHERIES COALITION

California Trout launched the **Tahoe Truckee Fisheries Coalition** on March 22, 2011. Our goal in bringing together all stakeholders—federal, state and regional agencies, conservation organizations, community groups, restoration practitioners, researchers, and other experts—is to better align fisheries research, restoration and policy. Specifically, CalTrout will lead this partner group to provide a much-needed holistic perspective on fisheries management, effectively build upon existing and planned partner projects, and co-ordinate restoration efforts, for a more strategic approach and increased conservation impact. This will enhance current work and offer great benefit in prioritizing projects.

The first meeting, was attended by *CalTrout, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, University of Nevada at Reno, American Fisheries Society, Trout Unlimited, Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers, Department of Fish and Game, Department of Water Resources, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Tahoe National Forest, Truckee River Water Authority (TRFMA), Desert Research Institute, University of California at Davis, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Forest Service, JBR Consultants, Washoe Meadows Community, Truckee River Watershed management Council, Cal Fly Fisher, Sagebrush TU, Lahonton Regional Water Quality Control Board, Tahoe Resource Conservation District (in absentia)*, and directed the enthusiastic participation of key restoration groups in the region to build a charter, collect active and proposed restoration plans, and coordinate an outreach and education calendar. Quarterly meetings were set through the year.



The first meeting of the Tahoe Truckee Fisheries Coalition, held at the Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

Over the coming year, Coalition priorities include:

- **Providing fisheries management recommendations** for the Lahontan cutthroat trout Recovery Implementation Team, Regional Plan Updates, and other restoration projects.

FISHERIES COALITION

OBJECTIVE:

To bring diverse stakeholders and agency decision-makers together, and to prioritize and coordinate fisheries restoration activities in the Truckee River Watershed.

- **Providing on-the ground restoration and monitoring** at sites identified by the coalition, including Cold Stream Canyon, the Little Truckee River and in the Upper Truckee River.
- **Providing a coordinated calendar of public outreach activities** that includes educational materials; hands-on-restoration opportunities, youth events in the watershed, and teacher training to bring environmental stewardship into Tahoe Truckee schools.
- **Tracking local restoration, research, policy, education and outreach projects on a shared database.**

COALITION SUPPORT AND NEEDS

CalTrout recently received funding from The Nature Fund and Martis Fund of the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation to cover the staff and administrative costs to establish the Fisheries Coalition for the Truckee River Watershed. Next, to partner on on-the ground monitoring and restoration and give us increasing species-monitoring capacity—to stun, log, measure, tag, and, if invasive, remove fish from the system.

EQUIPMENT	COST
Fish Electro shocker Unit	\$9,250
GPS equipment	\$750
Fish Tags and Tagger tool	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$20,000

We now turn to our lead supporters to help us harness and direct the potential of 22+ groups working to restore the Truckee River Watershed, and to equip us with the tools necessary to be really effective on the ground. Longtime CalTrout benefactors, Laureston and Barbara McLellan have seeded this equipment fund with a generous gift of \$5,000. Please join them, and our partners in the Fisheries Coalition, to recover endangered trout native to the Truckee River Watershed.

Mail your contribution to:

California Trout
 Fisheries Coalition for the Truckee River Watershed
 870 Market Street, Suite 528
 San Francisco, CA, 94102

Thank you!



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